



## ORCA Opportunity FAQ

### 1. What is the ORCA Opportunity program?

The ORCA Opportunity program provides 12-month ORCA cards to students. The ORCA cards provide free, unlimited transit on King County Metro, King County Water Taxi, Seattle Streetcar, Sound Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit, Kitsap Transit, and Everett Transit. The ORCA cards can't be used on Washington State Ferries.

### 2. Who is eligible for the ORCA Opportunity program?

The ORCA Opportunity program will fund free ORCA cards for high school students at Seattle Public Schools, income-qualified middle school students at Seattle Public Schools, and Seattle Promise Scholars. Seattle Public Schools will continue to provide ORCA cards to students based on their adopted transportation standards. The two efforts combined will result in all high school students at Seattle Public Schools receiving an ORCA card.

### 3. How is the program funded?

The program is funded through the Seattle Transportation Benefit District. In 2014, Seattle voters approved Proposition 1, a funding measure that includes a \$60 vehicle license fee and 0.1% sales tax for 6 years (2014-2020).

### 4. When will the ORCA Opportunity program begin?

The program will launch in late August/early September 2018. At the beginning of each school year, students will be issued a new ORCA card. The cards are valid for the school year and following summer.

### 5. How do eligible students get their new ORCA card?

High school students at Seattle Public Schools will receive a form in the mail during the summer. Students should fill out the form and bring it to orientation or the first day of school. Students will turn in the form and receive their ORCA card.

Middle school students that were in the ORCA Opportunity program last year and are returning to the same school don't need to take any action. If the student will not receive transportation from Seattle Public Schools for the 2019 - 2020 school year, the student will be automatically re-enrolled in the program. ORCA cards will be available at middle schools during the first week of school. Middle school students that did not have an ORCA card last school year from the ORCA Opportunity program or are changing schools will need to fill out an application and submit it to the front office of their school or email it to [ORCAOpportunity@seattle.gov](mailto:ORCAOpportunity@seattle.gov). New applicants will receive their ORCA cards from the front office of their middle school.

Seattle Promise Scholars will pick up their ORCA cards at the Bridge Program in September. Each Campus has their own Bridge Program.

**6. Is there a cap on enrollment in the ORCA Opportunity program?**

The ORCA Opportunity program has a cap for middle school students. The program is first-come, first-served for middle school students. Students in the program last year are automatically re-enrolled in the program and will not be affected by the cap.

**7. Is ORCA Opportunity a permanent program?**

ORCA Opportunity is a pilot program funded through the 2019 – 2020 school year. Beyond this point, the program will be subject to funding availability.

**8. In the future, will more students be eligible for ORCA Opportunity?**

Throughout the pilot, Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Public Schools, and King County Metro will work together to evaluate the program. The results of the evaluation, feedback from the public, and funding availability will shape the program in future years.

**9. Can students replace a lost or damaged ORCA card during the 2019 – 2020 school year?**

Yes, students can replace lost or damaged ORCA cards.

Students at Seattle Public Schools will need to work through their school to pay for a replacement. The first replacement will be \$5.50, all subsequent replacements will be \$25. During the summer, students may pay for a replacement at Seattle Public Schools headquarters.

Seattle Promise Scholars will need to visit a City of Seattle Customer Service Center to replace their ORCA card. The first replacement will be \$5, all subsequent replacements will be \$25. Replacements will be available through August 31, 2020.